

TOWN OF IPSWICH  
Ipswich Shellfish Advisory Committee to the Board of Selectmen  
Tuesday February 3, 2015  
Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Shellfish Advisory Committee to the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in room A of the Town Hall. Members present were Co-Chair Charles Surpitski, Wayne Castonguay, Michael Lambros and Brenda Turner. Also, Shellfish Constable Scott LaPreste and Recording Secretary Marie Rodgers. Police Chief Paul Nikas and David Swicker were not present. Linda Alexson arrived at 7:34

Mr. Surpitski opened the meeting and recognized Elizabeth Kilcoyne for her years of service; she was a strong advocate for the shellfish industry in Ipswich and her impact will be long lived.

**Reorganization:** Chairman Surpitski accepted nominations for Chairman:

Ms. Turner nominated Linda Alexson, Mr. Castonguay seconded. There were no other nominations, the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Surpitski nominated Mike Lambros to be Vice Chair. Ms. Turner seconded, the vote was unanimous.

**Citizen's Queries –**

Mr. Lambros questioned illegal harvesting of oysters from out-of-towners. Constable LaPreste concurred that years ago it was a problem, but not presently; on his day off Pick Thistlewood supervise and watch over the oyster beds.

Mr. Surpitski asked about the final results from the NEU Research Project on oysters. Constable LaPreste indicated that oysters did not fare well; many were eviscerated, possibly from green crabs. He will look into the final results to share at a future meeting.

Ms. Turner expressed her concerns about the issue of snow removal at Eagle Hill. Constable will follow up with DPW.

Mr. Surpitski initiated discussion regarding mass notification for emergency closures. Options were discussed; e-mail, text, limited reverse 911 and a separate submission requesting information concerning notification for emergency closures with the applications; this issue will be considered more in the future.

**Constable's Report**

Constable reported winter rain rules started in December, on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> two tasks days were held at Patterson's Landing, one half of the road way is crushed stone.

Enhancement Task – 91 performed task and 14 have not. There will be no lottery; there are plenty of openings.

January weather changed mid-month the Ipswich River opened on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Discussion ensued regarding the potential loss due to the change in dynamics.

**Chief Report**

Constable LaPreste submitted a report from the Chief about hiring an Assistant Constable (hereby incorporated by reference). Discussion ensued. Mr. Surpitski spoke to the importance of supporting the proposal and attending the BOS meeting.

Linda Alexson arrived and Mr. Surpitski congratulates her as new Chair. She graciously accepted, ex post facto.

**Ipswich River Update**

Mr. Castonguay reported on the testing conducted with the Constable, IRWA and DPW between the dam and County Road, all signs point to Farley Brook. Lengthy discussion was held regarding past testing efforts and result; investigative work, new strategies were contemplated. Constable LaPreste spoke to the grim matter if, the river is redefined and not conditionally approved by the state.

Going forward Constable LaPreste will outline a plan and identify participants for review next month.

Mr. Castonguay spoke to the subcommittees recommendations.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Castonguay moved to amend the rules and regulations to prohibit the sale of the American Oysters. Ms Turner seconded, the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**New Business**

Constable LaPreste reported on a call he received from DEP early in December, regarding the issue of pouring bleach to harvest razor clams. DEP has requested stronger language in the bylaw; specific language will be provided. Neighboring town along the coast will receive the same directive. Lengthy discussion ensued concerning enforcement and pollution violations. Final review of Rules and Regulations will be on the March agenda.

**Old Business:**

Mr. Surpitski initiated discussion regarding the availability of funds for the Green Crab Eradication Plan. \$15,000 won't be available until after July 1<sup>st</sup>; green crabs come back around April 15; all agreed that it would be prudent to begin the process before they lay eggs. If, additional funds could be secured to start the process earlier it would make a greater impact in protecting the resource; the \$10,000 would be in addition to the \$15,000; all agreed it will make a positive impact.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Lambros moved to requisition \$10,000 from free cash to be used to eradicate green crabs. Ms. Turner seconded, the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**Approval of minutes:**

**MOTION:**

Mr. Lambros moved to approve the meeting minutes from December 2, 2014, Ms. Alexson seconded, the motion passed with a unanimous vote

**MOTION:**

Ms. Alexson moved to approve the meeting minutes from January 13, 2015. Mr. Lambros seconded, the motion passed with a unanimous vote

**Next Meeting** –Tuesday, March 3, 2015 @ 7:00 PM in Room C

It was moved, seconded and unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Marie Rodgers

These minutes were approved on April 7, 2015